

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 DODE-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 L-03 MC-02

RSR-01 /106 W

----- 002754

R 080958 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5700

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T MADRID 2497

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP, BA

SUBJECT: SPANISH EXPORT OF 106 MM RIFLES

REF: STATE 78236 (NOTAL)

1. PERINAT, MFA SUB- DIRGEN FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AND PEREZ-MAURA, CHIEF OF US AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN MFA OFFICE OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, STATE THAT PROPOSED CONTRACT TO SELL 106 MM' S TO BAHREIN WAS WORKED OUT THROUGH LEBANESE FIRM IN BEIRUT ACTING AS AGENT OF BAHREIN GOVERNMENT AND SPANISH EMBASSY BEIRUT. BOTH CLAIMED TO BE IGNORANT OF LEBANESE FIRM' S NAME, THOUGH THEY NOTED THAT SAME FIRM WOULD HANDLE SIMULTANEOUS SALE OF LAND ROVERS ON WHICH 106 ' S WOULD BE MOUNTED.

2. PERINAT AND PEREZ MAURA ALSO STATED THAT SEEMINGLY AUTHENTIC LETTER OF REQUEST FROM GOVERNMENT OF BAHREIN FOR PURCHASE OF WEAPONS SUBMITTED TO GOS THROUGH LEBANESE AGENT AND SPANISH EMBASSY BEIRUT. WHILE THEY STRESSED THAT GOS DID NOT QUESTION LEGITIMACY OF LETTER, MFA RETURNED IT TO BAHREIN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO FOR AMENDMENT SINCE IT FAILED TO SPECIFY EXACT NUMBER OF WEAPONS TO BE BOUGHT. PEREZ MAURA COMMENTED THAT, HAVING OBSERVED DEVIOUS PURCHASE PROCEDURES OF SMALLER ARAB STATES IN SIMILAR

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TRANSACTIONS, HE DID NOT NECESSARILY CONCLUDE FROM BAHREIN DEFENSE MINISTER' S IGNORANCE THAT PURCHASE OFFER LACKED LEGITIMACY.

3. EMBOFF REQUESTED MFA OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE HIM FULL NAME OF LEBANESE AGENT IN BEIRUT.

RIVERO

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 08 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GDS
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30 JUN 2005

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